

Message Text

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TAGS: ECON EFIN EAID MO

SUBJECT: KING'S INTERVIEW FOR EGYPTIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION

REF: RABAT 1402 (NOTAL)

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SUMMARY: POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS AND ANALYSIS OF KING HASSAN'S

MARCH 17 EGYPTIAN TV INTERVIEW CONTAINED IN REFTEL. PRESENT MESSAGE CONCENTRATES ON ECONOMIC ELEMENTS. KING SET TONE FOR INTERVIEW ASSERTING VIEW (COMMONPLACE ELSEWHERE-- WELCOME NEWS HERE) THAT THERE ARE NO PURELY SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, OR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: ALL INTERFACE AND INTERACT. IN CONTEXT REMAINDER OF INTERVIEW, WE FEEL THIS COMMENT CONSTITUTES SIGNIFICANT AND REVEALING INSIGHT INTO NEW PERSPECTIVES WHICH MAY BE ENTERING INTO ROYAL THINKING. SPEECH MAY INDICATE OUTLINES OF FUTURE POLICY AS HASSAN ATTEMPTS TO ORCHESTRATE DOMESTIC SOCIAL POLICY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE POLICIES INTO GREATER PAN-ARAB FOREIGN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. ALLEGEDLY AT REQUEST ROYAL PALACE, KING HASSAN II WAS RECENTLY INTERVIEWED BY EGYPTIAN TELEVISION FOR FUTURE RELEASE IN CAIRO. INTERVIEW PRE-BROADCAST FOR MOROCCAN RADIO AND TV ON MARCH 17. FULL TEXT FRONT-PAGED IN ALL LOCAL PAPERS. MAIN THEMES WERE ARAB ECONOMIC RESURGENCE AND MOROCCO-EGYPTIAN COOPERATION, BUT OTHER SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC TOPICS TREATED.

2. WE'RE ALL ECONOMISTS NOW. IN RESPONSE INITIAL QUESTION CONCERNING HIS "MAJOR PREOCCUPATIONS", KING HASSAN, AFTER BRIEF PROLOGUE OF PRAISE FOR EGYPT, SET TONE OF INTERVIEW BY ASSERTING "THERE ARE NO PURELY SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, ECONOMIC, OR MONETARY PROBLEMS. ALL (THE PROBLEMS OF THE NATION) INTERFACE AND HAVE A FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON EACH OTHER". HAVING THUS MADE CLEAR CENTRAL ROLE HE FEELS ECONOMIC ISSUES PLAY IN OVERALL COUNTRY OBJECTIVES, INTERVIEW REMAINED CLOSE TO THIS THEME.

3. MOROCCAN "TAKE OFF" PREDICTED BY YEAR-END. KING CHARACTERIZED PRESENT PHASE OF ECONOMIC EVOLUTION AS "EXTREMELY DELICATE". IF MOROCCO SUCCEEDS IN ACCELERATING TEMPO OF DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID, NATION MAY EXPERIENCE "DEFINITIVE ECONOMIC TAKE OFF" BY END OF CALENDAR 1975. IF, HOWEVER, RHYTHM OF ECONOMY FALTERS (A CURRENT FEAR IN VIEW OF PROBLEMATIC WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND HESITATION IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT), WOULD BE DIFFICULT MAINTAIN PROGRESS TOWARDS DESIRED OBJECTIVES.

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4. "KORANIC SOCIALISM". ELABORATING HIS PHILOSOPHY REGARDING INTERRELATIONSHIP OF SOCIAL/ECONOMIC FACTORS, KING ASSERTED THAT LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE IS TO ASSURE WELL BEING OF ALL THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT SOCIALIST PHILOSOPHY, "AS WE CONCEIVE IT". THIS CONCEPTION, HE CONTINUED, IS DRAWN FROM KORANIC ADMONITION 'I DESIRE THAT YE BE A JUST NATION'. ASSERTED MOROCCO DESIRES NEITHER A "SHABBY SOCIALISM" OR THE "EXTREMES OF CAPITALISM". NATION ASPIRES TO "TRULY MOROCCAN SOCIETY WHERE EACH MEMBER OF

SOCIETY HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE IN WEALTH WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION OR FAVORITISM...WITH THE STATE ASSURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL". KING ADDED THAT "DIVERSE RICHES WITH WHICH GOD HAS ENDOWED NATION MUST BE EXPLOITED BY QUALIFIED MOROCCAN NATIONALS AT EVERY LEVEL OF MANAGEMENT, ON CONFORMITY WITH REASON AND NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS".

5. ARAB COMMON MARKETS AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS. IN RESPONSE QUESTION REGARDING DUTY OF RICH ARAB STATES TOWARDS POOR, KING DIPLOMATICALLY INFORMED EGYPTIAN TELEVISION AUDITORS THAT "GEOGRAPHY HAS MADE ALL ARAB STATES RICH. THOSE GOD DID NOT BLESS WITH OIL HAVE BEEN ENDOWED WITH A LOCATION WHICH MAKES RIGHT OF PASSAGE ESSENTIAL, AGRICULTURAL WEALTH, OR SIGNIFICANT TOURIST ATTRACTIONS". WHILE IT ESSENTIAL THAT ARAB STATES ELABORATE COLLECTIVE PLAN FOR MORE DISTANT PERSPECTIVES, KING EXPRESSED NEAR TERM PREFERENCE FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROUPINGS, WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL DIFFERENCES.

6. PROPOSALS FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION. KING FLATTERED EGYPTIAN TELESPECTATORS BY ASSERTING EGYPT POSSESSES CENTURY-LONG LEAD IN DEVELOPING TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES, THUS ENABLING IT TO ASSIST MOROCCO IN ITS "TAKE-OFF". ADDED THAT EGYPTIAN ENGINEER HAS MORE AFFINITY FOR HIS MOROCCAN BROTHER THAN FOREIGNERS "WHO UNDERSTANDS NEITHER OUR LANGUAGE OR OUR WAY OF LIFE". CHARACTERIZED POTENTIAL FIELD OF COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AS VAST WITH EGYPT'S INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND LARGE POPULATION DIRECTLY COMPLEMENTING MOROCCO'S AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL.

7. ARABIC IN THREE EASY LESSONS: BERLITZ OUTLOOK ROSY. IN ALLUDING TO "THIRD STEP" ARABS MUST TAKE TO ACHIEVE FULL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POTENTIAL (BEYOND COLONIALISM AND "NATIONAL" REAWAKENING), HASSAN ASSERTED ARAB NATIONS MUST SEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO IT THAT ARABIC BECOMES BUSINESS LANGUAGE OF MIDDLE EAST AND BE ACCEPTED AND TAUGHT AS NATURALLY AS OTHER MAJOR TONGUES ARE IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

8. COMMENT: IN NARROWLY ECONOMIC TERMS, INTERVIEW REVEALED NO NEW DEPARTURES AND WAS IN HARMONY WITH PAST REPORTING ASSESSMENTS (SEE RABAT 6127 DEC 19, 74, AND RABAT A-22, FEB 26, 75). EMPHASIS ON INTERRELATIONSHIP OF VARIOUS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES NEVERTHELESS USEFULLY HIGHLIGHTS ECLECTIC NATURE OF KING'S APPROACH TO PROBLEM SOLVING. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THERE IS, IN GOM'S VIEW, A NATURAL AFFINITY OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS BETWEEN MOROCCO AND OIL STATES, WHOSE AMMONIA BI-PRODUCTS CAN BE USED TO PROCESS PHOSPHATE ROCK INTO HIGHER VALUE CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS. GOM ALSO HAS VISION OF ARAB MONETARY UNION WITH CASABLANCA AS

PAN-ARAB FINANCIAL CENTER. KING NOW SEEMS TO HAVE PICKED UP ANOTHER THREAD--MOROCCO-EGYPTIAN COOPERATION--AS HE SEEKS TO WEAVE MOST POPULOUS ARAB COUNTRY INTO TAPESTRY OF CURRENT PRE-OCCUPATIONS. MOROCCAN CABINET MEMBERS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN FLYING ALL OVER EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST (WITH SIDE TRIPS TO MOSCOW AND OTTAWA) LOOKING FOR CREDITS TO EASE RECURRING LIQUIDITY SQUEEZE AND HELP FINANCE EXTRAORDINARY GRAIN IMPORTS NECESSITATED BY PARTIAL CROP FAILURE. TIMING OF KING'S ADDRESS TO EGYPTIAN NATION MAY HAVE SHORT RANGE FOCUS AS ROYAL CONTRIBUTION TO LINING UP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BOOST AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT. LONGER RANGE OBJECTIVE OF BUILDING HEALTHY TRADE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO MOST POPULOUS ARAB COUNTRIES NEVERTHELESS HAS IMPLICATIONS WHICH WILL BEAR WATCHING IN TERMS OF U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN AND MIDDLE EAST.

9. WE DO NOT BELIEVE REFERENCE TO KORANIC SOCIALISM, WHICH IS FAMILIAR THEME OF KING, CHANGES ANYTHING OF SUBSTANCE IN CURRENT ECONOMIC APPROACH. REFERENCE WAS PRESUMABLY PARTLY DESIGNED TO SOUND NOTE OF HARMONY WITH EGYPT'S "ARAB SOCIALISM". MOROCCO CAN BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN FOR RELEVANT FUTURE A MIXED ECONOMY WITH HEAVY DIRIGISTE EMPHASIS AND LARGE PUBLIC SECTOR.

10. MEANWHILE, EGYPTIAN EMBASSY TELLS US PRIVATELY THAT NO AGREEMENT HAS IN FACT AS YET BEEN REACHED ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, WHICH NOT LIKELY TO GO BEYOND "A FEW TEACHERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND DOCTORS". ALSO, WELL-PLACED MOROCCAN SOURCES WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED EGYPTIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE QUESTION HAVE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS. THEY REITERATED FAMILIAR THEME THAT PROBLEM IN MOROCCO IS NOT LACK OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE, BUT FAILURE TO MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF EXISTING MORCCAN TALENT. FURTHERMORE, RECENTLY ARABIZED FACULTIES OF MOHAMMED V UNIVERSITY HAVE OFTEN NOT BEEN PLEASED WITH EASTERN ARABS BROUGHT HERE AS PROFESSORS, PARTLY OUT OF NATIONALIST PRIDE AND PARTLY BECAUSE MEN COMING TO MOROCCO SOMETIMES NOT WELL QUALIFIED.

11. FINALLY, KING'S VIEW THAT ARABIC WILL EASE COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS IS PERHAPS OVERSIMPLIFICATION. FACT OF LIFE WHICH ARABIZERS HERE MUST FACE IS THAT FRENCH REMAINS THE PRIMARY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION IN TECHNICAL MATTERS IN THIS COUNTRY. END COMMENT.
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